



Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: October 28, 2013

Q. What is Fortify?

- A. The North Carolina Department of Transportation is working to fortify two of the Triangle's busiest roads, part of a 10-year plan to reduce congestion and enhance motility throughout the area. Crews must rebuild an 11.5 mile stretch of I-40 and I-440.

NCDOT will complete major fortification improvements:

- Replace pavement along the 11.5-mile of the southern stretch of I-40 / I-440
- Extend the lanes between ramps in each direction at
 - U.S. 1/64 (Exit 293) / Gorman Street (Exit 295)
 - Gorman Street (Exit 295) / Lake Wheeler Road (Exit 297)
- Extend the deceleration lane – off ramp for Rock Quarry Road (Exit 300B)
- Rehabilitate 14 bridges within the project zone

Q. Why is the project necessary?

- A. The project is first and foremost about safety. The 30 year old pavement and the materials underneath are cracking and crumbling because of a chemical reaction happening underneath the road, triggered by a substance used in paving several decades ago. Replacement of the pavement is necessary to ensure the safety of all citizens and motorists who use this busy section of highway every day.

Q. When will the project start?

- A. The first stage, rebuilding I-440, begins November 2013. Crews will replace the section from the I-40, U.S. 64, and I-440 interchange, known as "the 40 split," to just north of the U.S. 64/264 Knightdale Bypass.

- **Week of October 28:** Nighttime lane closures begin for prep work
- **Early December:** Daytime lane closures begin

Stage two, daytime lane closures for rebuilding I-40, is scheduled to begin by late 2014, when crews will replace the pavement from U.S. 1/64 all the way to the I-40 split. The entire project is scheduled to wrap up by the fall of 2016.

Q. Where can I go for information and updates?

- A. NCDOT has launched a new Fortify website (www.fortifyNC.com) to connect people with comprehensive project information including where to catch alternate transit options, project maps, and links to live traffic cameras through a partnership with WRAL News.

The site also includes links to Twitter, Facebook and other social media to stay engaged with NCDOT and other commuters.

Q. How will this project affect my commute?

- A. More than 100 thousand cars travel on this weakened section every day, and a project like this one will have an impact on traffic. The goal is to get at least 30,000 cars off the road during the heaviest commute times: morning – 6:00am – 8:30am and evening 4:00pm – 6:30pm.

Stay informed, and stay ahead of traffic back-ups with the latest traffic updates via the Fortify website, WRAL traffic, and other social media tools like twitter @fortifyNC and @NCDOT_Triangle.

Q. What is NCDOT doing to help?

- A. NCDOT is working with the contractor, Granite, to keep three lanes open in both directions for most of the I-40 rebuild portion of the project – where a majority of cars travel.

NCDOT is also investing an additional \$12 million in public transportation to add more buses and routes, and to identify new park and ride options.

Q. What alternate routes do you recommend?

- A. While NCDOT has no specific recommended routes, we encourage all drivers to seek out alternate routes that work best for them. Talk to neighbors and coworkers about what they suggest and try those routes. There are also many navigational tools and free mobile apps, like *Beat the Traffic* and *Waze* available to assist you in finding the best alternate route for your daily commute. You can find links to mobile apps, maps, and share information about alternate routes on the Fortify website at www.fortifyNC.com.

Q. Where can I find information on bus routes and schedules?

- A. The best source of information for public transit in the Triangle is www.gotriangle.org. At this site you can also find information on expanded transit services we're offering for commuters during the I-40/I-440 Project.

The NCDOT will offer expanded transit services through its transit partners, Triangle Transit and Capital Area Transit during both stages of the project.

- Daily express bus routes to downtown will be available from park and ride lots in Wake and Johnston counties, including Clayton, Garner, Knightdale, Wendell, and Zebulon (to be announced).
- A van pool program will compliment expanded transit services and will be available for Johnston County commuters during the I-440 stage of the project, and for Wake County commuters during the I-40 stage.

Q. What other things can we do?

- A.** Consider alternative commuting options. You can check out additional tools, materials and other information to expand your commuting options including transit, carpooling and vanpooling, bicycling, teleworking and alternative work schedules to help to alleviate traffic.

Share information. The Employer Resources section also includes a toolkit with communication tools including videos, presentations, posters, fact sheets and Q&As.